In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a corrected concentration of ~~one or more than one~~ an analyte contained in a specimen comprising a blood substitute interferent, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

i) providing a first calibration algorithm for said blood substitute interferent, a second calibration algorithm for a non-blood substitute interferent, ~~and one or more than one~~ a first linear equation defining a relationship between a measured concentration of said ~~one or more than one~~ analyte and a concentration of said blood substitute interferent, and a second linear equation defining a relationship between a measured concentration of said analyte and a concentration of said non-blood substitute interferent, said first and second calibration algorithms developed using a calibration set comprising variable amounts of said blood substitute interferent and said non-blood substitute interferent;

ii) measuring an absorbance or reflectance of radiation of said specimen, wherein said measuring is performed in the absence of any reaction step that generates a chromophore within said specimen;

iii) using said first and second calibration ~~algorithm~~ algorithms and said absorbance or reflectance measured in step (ii) to calculate ~~said~~ a concentration of said blood substitute interferent and a concentration of said non-blood substitute interferent in said specimen;

iv) determining an initial concentration of said ~~one, or more than one~~ analyte in said specimen with an analyzer ~~from said absorbance or said reflectance measured in step (ii)~~, and

v) using said ~~one or more than one~~ first and second linear ~~equation~~ equations from step (i), said ~~concentration~~ concentrations from step (iii), and said initial concentration from step (iv), to determine said corrected concentration of said ~~one or more than one~~ analyte.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, wherein said ~~one or more than one~~ analyte is chosen from the group consisiting of Na, K, Cl, HCO_3, Ca, Mg, creatinine, urea, total protein, gamma glutamyl transferase (GGT), aspartate amino transferase (AST), lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), creatine kinase (CK), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and total bilirubin (Tbili).

11. (Previously presented): The method of claim 8 wherein reflectance is used in step (ii).

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the radiation is in the range of 474-910 nm.

13. – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein absorbance is used in step (ii).

24. (Currently Amended) A method of determining the presence of true hemolysis~~, pseudo hemolysis caused by a blood substitute interferent, or both~~, in a specimen, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

i) measuring an absorbance of radiation of said specimen, wherein ~~the~~ said measuring is performed in the absence of any reaction step that generates a chromophore within said specimen[[;]], and

ii) incorporating said absorbance measured in step (i) into a ~~first~~ calibration algorithm developed using a calibration set comprising variable amounts of hemoglobin and a blood substitute interferent to determine a value of ~~said blood substitute interferent~~ hemoglobin~~; and~~,

~~iii) incorporating said absorbance measured in step (i) into a second calibration algorithm to determine a value of Hb liberated from blood cells;~~

wherein detection of any amount of hemoglobin is an indicator of true hemolysis ~~, if said value of said blood substitute interferent, or said Hb, is above a predetermined threshold, then said value is an indicator of pseudo-hemolysis, or true hemolysis, respectively~~.

25. - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[25]] 8, wherein said ~~one or more than one~~ non-blood substitute interferent is selected from the group consisting of haemoglobin (Hb), bilirubin (BR), biliverdin (BV), turbidity and a mixture thereof.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said specimen further comprises one, or more than one, non-blood substitute interferent.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said one or more than one non-blood substitute interferent is selected from the group consisting of intralipid (IL), bilirubin (BR), biliverdin (BV), turbidity and a mixture thereof.

31. (New) A method of determining the presence of pseudohemolysis in a specimen, comprising:

ii) measuring an absorbance of radiation of said specimen, wherein said measuring is performed in the absence of any reaction step that generates a chromophore within said specimen, and

ii) incorporating said absorbance measured in step (i) into a calibration algorithm developed using a calibration set comprising variable amounts of hemoglobin and a blood substitute interferent to determine a value of said blood substitute interferent,

wherein detection of any amount of said blood substitute interferent is an indicator of pseudohemolysis.

32 (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said specimen further comprises at least one non-blood substitute interferent.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said one or more than one non-blood substitute interferent is selected from the group consisting of intralipid (IL), bilirubin (BR), biliverdin (BV), turbidity and a mixture thereof.

34. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said blood substitute interferent is cross-linked hemoglobin.

35. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said blood substitute interferent is cross-linked hemoglobin.

36. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said blood substitute interferent is cross-linked hemoglobin.

37. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein measuring an absorbance of radiation of said specimen includes measuring absorbance at approximately 541 nm, 558 nm, 600nm, and 616 nm.